

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 171922

44

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /011 R

66611

DRAFTED BY S/S-O:A.PERKINS

8/29/73 EXT. 21512

APPROVED BY S/S-O:S. FRY

----- 087068

P 291629Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

USSAG PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 171922

EXDIS

FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT SECSTATE WASHDC FROM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
29 AUG 73 (290414Z AUG 73):

QUOTE S E C R E T BANGKOK 13457

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJECT:FOLLOW-ON TALKS ON US FORCE LEVELS IN THAILAND

DEPT PASS CINCPAC AND USSAG FOR GENERAL VOGT

REF: A. BANGKOK 13220 B. BANGKOK 13277

1. WE BELIEVE THAT WE MAY SEE SOME REDUCTION IN THAI GOVERNMENT
PRESSURE FOR ACTIONS WHICH WOULD GIVE RTG POSITIVE DOMESTIC IMAGE
OF CALLING THE SHOTS IN REVIEWING US MILITARY PRESENCE IN
THAILAND. WE ARE ASSURED THAT PRIME MINISTER THANOM WAS MOST
GRATIFIED BY RESULTS OF FRIDAY NEGOTIATIONS AND JOINT STATEMENT,
AND WE EXPECT THAT WORD OF OUR FURTHER EFFORTS TO MEET THAI
REQUESTS BY EXPEDITING FIRST DEPARTURES AND INCLUDE KC-135S

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 171922

IN FIRST TRANCHE WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. THIS PROVIDES

TIME FOR US TO ASSESS OUR GOALS DURING FUTURE TALKS ON US FORCE LEVELS, AND HOPEFULLY TO CONCERT A STRATEGY WITH OUR THAI HOSTS WHICH WILL MEET OUR MUTUAL GOALS.

2. DURING AUGUST 24 TALKS THAIS EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED CONFLICT BETWEEN THEIR DOMESTIC REQUIREMENT TO PUBLICIZE US FORCE WITHDRAWALS AND US INTEREST, WHICH THEY SUPPORT, IN AVOIDING DAMAGING SIGNALS TO HANOI. THEY HAVE INSISTED THAT AUGUST 15 BOMBING HALT REQUIRED RT ACTION IN PUBLIC FORUM, AND SIGNIFICANT STEPS TO SATISFY REQUIREMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN TAKEN; WHICH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED,

ACTIONS NOW IN PROGRESS ON FIRST TRANCHE WITHDRAWALS WILL PROVIDE OCCASION FOR FURTHER WORKING-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS AND BRIEF, FACTUAL PRESS STATEMENTS CONFIRMING DEPARTURES AND TURNS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

3. WE ENVISAGE SEPTEMBER 7 FOLLOW-ON TALKS AS OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW RESULTS OF FIRST TRANCHE AND LOWER THE PROFILE OF THESE NEGOTIATING SESSIONS. WE GAVE ADVANCE WARNING ON AUGUST 24 THAT WE DID NOT EXPECT TO HAVE NEW WITHDRAWALS TO DISCUSS BY THAT DATE, BUT EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO MEET AT RTG REQUEST AT MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TIME.

4. AT SEPTEMBER 7 SESSION WE ENVISAGE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR PRESENTATION BY US SIDE:

A. TIME TABLE FOR AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS ON FIRST TRANCHE WHICH HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN CARRIED OUT.

B. DISCUSSION OF TEN KC-135 AND RELATED PERSONNEL WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN ADDED TO FIRST TRANCHE.

C. TIME TABLE FOR PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS.

D. STATUS REPORT ON PLANS AND PROGRESS FOR CLOSURE/TURNOVER OF FACILITIES AT NAM PHONG.

E. STATUS REPORT ON RIF FOR LOCAL NATIONAL EMPLOYEES AND THAI SECURITY GUARDS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 171922

F. ASSURANCE WE ARE CONSIDERING WHAT FUTURE REDUCTIONS CAN BE MADE OVER MONTHS AHEAD WITHOUT DEGRADING US AIR POWER DETERRENT IN SEA; IN THIS CONNECTION WE ANTICIPATE THAI PRESSURE TO INDICATE PUBLICLY OUR INTENTION OF REDUCING FORCES TO LEVELS OF EARLY 1972.

G. ASSURANCE WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THAI INTEREST IN EXCESS EQUIPMENT (REF B).

5. WE WILL SEEK AGREEMENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO JOINT STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AFTER SEPTEMBER 7 SESSION, BUT THAT BOTH SIDES CAN CONFIRM THAT THE TALKS ARE CONTINUING. THAIS MAY WELL PRESS FOR ADDITIONAL STATEMENT THAT GOAL OF TALKS IS TO MAP OUT REDUCTION TO EARLY 1972 LEVEL. FORTHCOMING STATEMENT OF THIS SORT IDENTIFYING GOAL OF CONTINUING JOINT DISCUSSIONS BUT NOT TIED DIRECTLY TO SEPTEMBER 7 TALKS WOULD SERVE OUR INTEREST BY AVOIDING NEED TO TALK ABOUT SPECIFIC FUTURE TRANCHES WE MAY BE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS.

6. IF THAIS INSIST, WE MAY AGREE TO LETTING IT BE KNOWN THERE WILL BE MORE OR LESS REGULAR FUTURE SESSIONS, WHICH WOULD TEND TO DEFLATE PRESS INTEREST, BUT WE WILL SEEK AGREEMENT NOT TO RECONVENE EXCEPT WHEN EITHER SIDE REQUESTS MEETING FOR SPECIFIED DISCUSSION.

7. DCM EXPLORED THESE THOUGHTS AT LUNCHEON WITH GENERAL KRIANGSAK AUGUST 27. KRIANGSAK APPEARED FULLY SYMPATHETIC TO OUR VIEWS, ALTHOUGH STILL ANXIOUS THAT THERE BE FURTHER POSTIVE PUBLICITY (PHOTOS AND MEDIA COVERAGE) REPORTING PROMPT DEPARTURE OF INITIAL AIRCRAFT REDEPLOYMENTS AND CONFIRMING UNIT WITHDRAWALS AS THEY OCCUR. KRIANGSAK ALSO VOLUNTEERED SUGGESTION THAT FUTURE RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE RELEASED FROM TIME TO TIME THROUGH PRIMIN THANOM PRESS CONFERENCES INSTEAD OF JOINT STATEMENTS AFTER BILATERAL TALK SESSIONS. UNGER UNQUOTE ROGERS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PLANS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE171922
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:A.PERKINS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P750011-0276
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973087/aaaaaerq.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 BANGKOK 13220, 73 BANGKOK 13277
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOLLOW-ON TALKS ON US FORCE LEVELS IN THAILAND
TAGS: MARR, TH, US
To: CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005